

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MOSCOW VISIT

1. ACDA DEPUTY DIRECTOR ZURHELLEN CALLED IN AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADORS AND JAPANESE CHARGE NOVEMBER 1 AND GAVE THEM BRIEFING ON ARMS CONTROL ASPECTS OF SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. DISCUSSIONS COVERED A RANGE OF SUBJECTS BUT MAIN FOCUS WAS STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS LIMITATIONS. NO REPEAT NO SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSION OF MBFR TOOK PLACE.

B. US VIEWED MOSCOW MEETING PRIMARILY AS OPPORTUNITY FOR IN DEPTH DISCUSSIONS ON OFFENSIVE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS AND FOR PROBING SIGNS OF FRESH SOVIET THOUGHT OR NEW FLEXIBILITY. GENERAL IMPRESSION AFTER TALKS WAS THAT SOVIET LEADERSHIP WAS SERIOUSLY LOOKING AT WAYS OF FINDING AN AGREEMENT IN 1975. THEY, AS WE, SEEM TO BE

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PROMPTED BY A REALIZATION THAT 1976 WILL SEE ATTENTION

IN US FOCUSED ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, WHILE 1977
MARKS END OF INTERIM AGREEMENT.

C. SOVIETS MADE LITTLE REFERENCE THIS TIME TO FBS
ISSUE; COMPARED TO MARCH MEETINGS DISCUSSION ON THIS
POINT WAS ALMOST PERFUNCTORY. NOTABLE, HOWEVER, THAT
THERE WAS MORE REFERENCE THIS TIME BY SOVIETS TO NUCLEAR
CAPABILITY OF THIRD COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY CHINA.

D. IMPRESSION WAS GAINED THAT SOVIETS ARE MOVING IN
DIRECTION OF ACCEPTING EQUAL AGGREGATE NUMBERS IN CENTRAL
STRATEGIC SYSTEMS. IF LATER DISCUSSIONS CONFIRM THIS
IMPRESSION, IT WOULD BE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH.

E. SOVIETS ALSO GAVE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE MOVING
IN DIRECTION OF ADVOCATING EQUAL NUMBERS OF MIRV LAUNCHERS.
THIS WOULD GIVE US PROBLEMS SINCE THERE NO INDICATION
SOVIETS PREPARED TO FOREGO MIRVING VERY HEAVY MISSILES.

F. SOVIETS INDICATED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT US
B-1 AND ITS ARMAMENTS, WHICH WILL ALSO FEATURE IN
FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSIONS.

G. IF FIRST IMPRESSIONS CONFIRMED, THERE IS
POSSIBILITY WE MAY BE ON THRESHOLD OF AGREEMENT ON QUESTION
OF EQUAL AGGREGATES. IF SO, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO
BUILD PRINCIPLES FOR SALT AGREEMENT TERMS OF WHICH
DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA WOULD WORK ON.

H. WE CONSIDERED EXCHANGE IN MOSCOW USEFUL AND
CONSTRUCTIVE. WE SEE SOVIETS AS ACCEPTING THAT PRESIDENT
FORD IS PURSUING POLICY LINES ESTABLISHED OVER LAST
THREE YEARS AND SOVIETS SEEM INTERESTED IN PURSUING THESE
POLICY LINES AS WELL. WE CONSIDER MOSCOW MEETING TO
HAVE LAID A SOUND BASIS FOR FIRST FORD-BREZHNEV MEETING.

2. WE EMPHASIZED SENSITIVITY OF THIS BRIEFING AND
EMBASSIES SHOULD BE GUIDED ACCORDINGLY IF SUBJECT RAISED
BY LOCAL OFFICIALS.
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